

STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: January 8, 2007

To: Chief GED Examiners, Alternate Examiners, Adult Literacy Coordinators,

Other Interested Parties

FROM: Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

SUBJECT: Iowa GED Statistical Report for Calendar Year 2006

(January 1, 2006-December 31, 2006)

INTRODUCTION

The following information summarizes the major statistical trends relative to Iowa's GED testing program for Calendar Year 2006.

STATISTICAL TRENDS

The following data summarizes some of the significant trends based on total testing volume (N=5,769):

- 10-12 percent of the total number of secondary school credentials issued were GED diplomas.
- 98.9 percent passed by Iowa state standards. This is the nation's highest pass rate.
- The highest grade completed for Iowa's GED candidates is 11.0 compared to a national average of 11.0.
- The average age of Iowa's GED candidates is 25.0 compared to the national average of 24.9.
- 56.0 percent were male and 44.0 percent were female.
- 76 percent were majority and 24 percent were minority. The 24 percent minority figure compares to an overall 6 percent minority population figure for Iowa's adult population according to 2000 census figures.
- The number of Iowa High School Equivalency Diplomas issued during Calendar Year 2006 was 3,592.
- The three (3) major reasons for testing were: 1) Employment Related (27 percent), 2) Higher Education/Training (25 percent), and 3) Personal Satisfaction (23 percent).
- 80 percent of the candidates were between the ages of 16-29 (35.0 percent were between the ages of 16-19 and 45.0 percent were between the ages of 20-29).
- 85 percent of the candidates were between the ages of 18-59.
- 19 percent of the GED test volume was conducted in correctional facilities.
- Iowa's mean test scores range from 15-22 standard score points above the national subtest pass rate percentage range.
- Iowa's subtest pass rate percentages range 6-15 percentage points above the national subtest pass rate percentages.

SUMMARY

The GED testing program in Iowa has traditionally sustained a 93-98 percent GED candidates' pass rate. Iowa has always ranked in the top five states for GED candidates' pass rate. This high pass rate is an excellent testimony to the effectiveness of Iowa's adult literacy instructional program and GED testing program. Iowa's high pass rate is due, to a large extent, to the fact that 96 percent of Iowa's GED candidates are direct referrals from the adult literacy instructional program. Iowa has successfully met the state benchmark pass range (94-96 percent) for Calendar Years 1998-2006.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

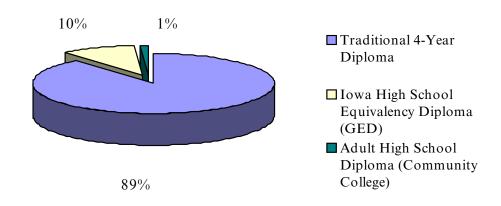
Sincerely,

John Hartwig Iowa State GED Administrator

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Graphic Presentation of Iowa's GED Testing Program

A Comparison of the Number and Percentage of the Traditional and Non-Traditional Secondary School Credentials Issued for Program Year 2006

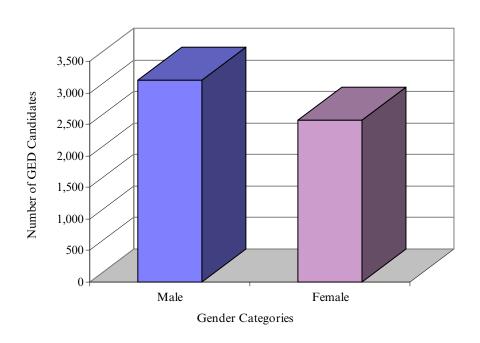


Type of Credential	N	Percent	
Traditional 4-Year Diploma	33,547	89	
Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma (GED)	3,893	10	
Adult High School Diploma (Community Colleges)	242	1	
Total	37,682	100	

The GED diploma rate will range between 10-12 percent of the total percentage of secondary school credentials issued for any given program year.

Source: The Annual Condition of Education Report: 2006, Table 131, Iowa Department of Education. Iowa's Community College Basic Literacy Skills Credential Report: Program Year 2006, Table 1, Iowa Department of Education.

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Gender Category for Calendar Year 2006

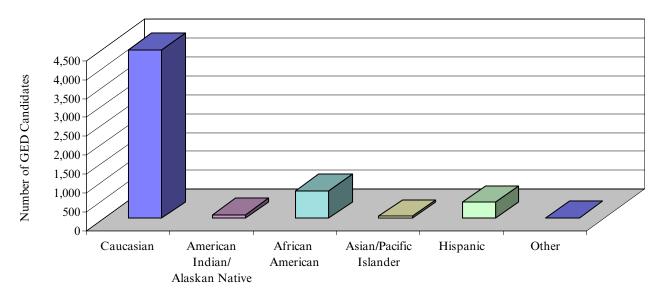


Gender Category	N	Percent
Male	3,203	56
Female	2,566	44
	5,769	100

lowa gender categories included 56 percent male and 44 percent female compared to the national gender categories of 55 percent male and 45 percent female.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 3, American Council on Education.

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Race/Ethnic Category for Calendar Year 2006



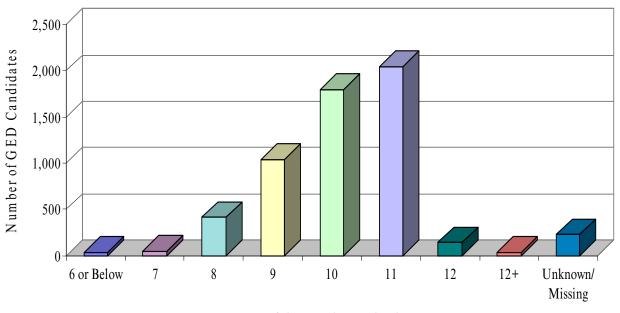
Racial/Ethnic Categories

Racial Ethnic Category	N	Percent	
Caucasian	4,459	76	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	94	2	
African American	736	13	
Asian/Pacific Islander	57	1	
Hispanic	413	7	
Other	10	1	
	5,769	100	

76 percent were majority and 24 percent were minority. The 24 percent minority figure for GED candidates compares to an overall 6 percent minority population figure for lowa's adult population according to 2000 census figures.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education.

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Highest Grade Completed for Calendar Year 2006



	Hig	hest	Grad	e C	omp	leted
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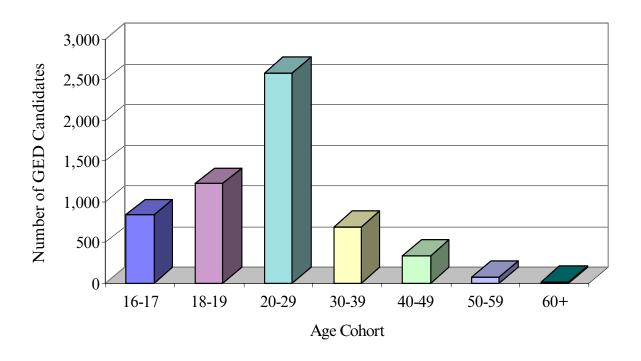
Highest Grade Level Completed	N	Percent	
6 or Below	31	1	
7	46	1	
8	411	7	
9	1,041	18	
10	1,798	31	
11	2,041	35	
12	140	2	
12+	33	1	
Unknown/Missing	228	4_	
Total	5,769	100	

Highest grade completed is 11.0 compared to the national mean of 11.0.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 5, American Council of Education.

Graph 5

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Age Cohorts for Calendar Year 2006

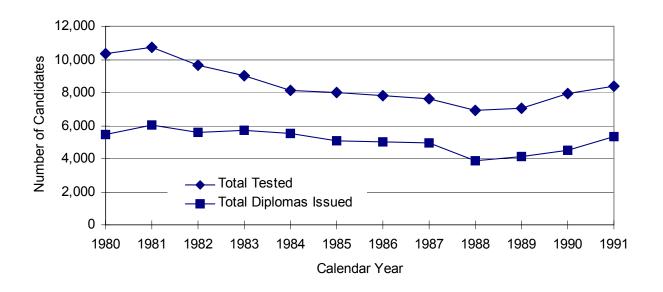


Age Cohort	N	Percent	
16-17	838	14	
18-19	1,222	21	
20-29	2,579	45	
30-39	690	12	
40-49	338	6	
50-59	79	1	
60+	23	1	
	5,769	100	

Mean age is 25.0 compared to the national mean age of 24.9. 85 percent were between ages 18-59.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 2, American Council of Education.

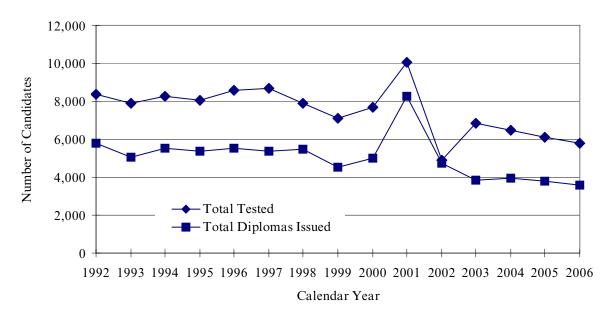
A Comparison of Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested, and Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma from Calendar Years 1980-1991



Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued
1980	10,342	5,452
1981	10,753	6,024
1982	9,635	5,602
1983	9,035	5,710
1984	8,147	5,531
1985	8,003	5,106
1986	7,832	5,036
1987	7,650	4,957
1988	6,902	3,858
1989	7,027	4,126
1990	7,909	4,497
1991	8,373	5,305

Source: 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education. 1980-1991 GED Diploma Recipient Reports, Iowa Department of Education.

A Comparison of Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested, and Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma from Calendar Years 1992-2006

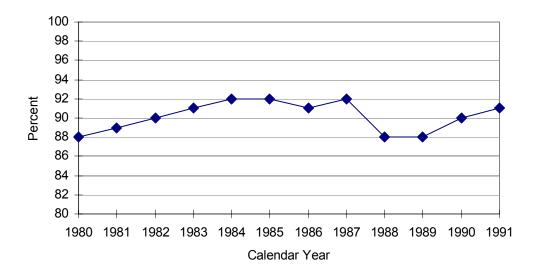


Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued
1992	8,348	5,764
1993	7,917	5,063
1994	8,277	5,525
1995	8,044	5,372
1996	8,566	5,525
1997	8,666	5,377
1998	7,871	5,448
1999	7,120	4,544
2000	7,666	4,983
2001	10,061	8,259
2002	*4,915	4,763
2003	6,845	3,845
2004	6,458	3,958
2005	6,109	3,784
2006	5,769	3,592

^{*}The test volume decreased due to the change to the GED 2002 tests.

Source: 1992-2006 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education. 1992-2006 GED Diploma Recipient Reports, Iowa Department of Education.

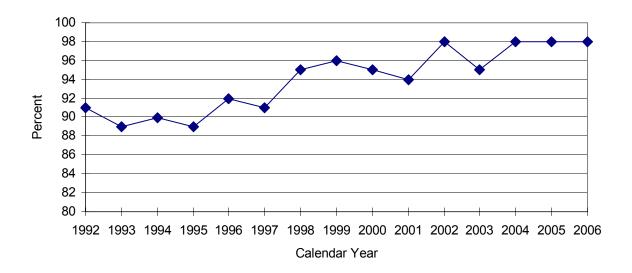
Graph 8 Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent 1980-1991



Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)
1980	88
1981	89
1982	90
1983	91
1984	92
1985	92
1986	91
1987	92
1988	88
1989	88
1990	90
1991	91

Source: 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education.

Graph 9 Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent 1992-2006

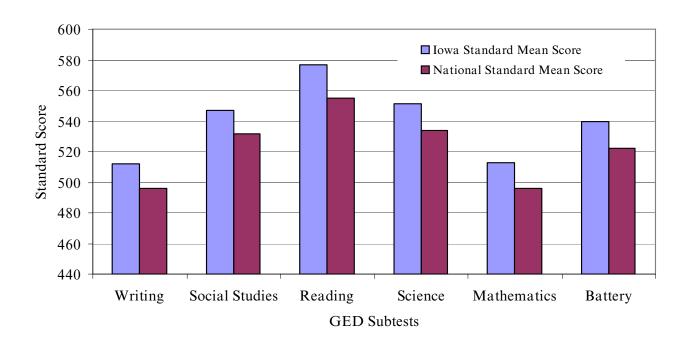


Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)
1992	91
1993	89
1994	90
1995	89
1996	92
1997	91
1998	95
1999	96
2000	85
2001	84
2002	98
2003	95
2004	98
2005	98
2006	99

The 99.0 percent pass rate meets the accountability range of 92-95 percent pass rate for lowa's GED testing program. The national average pass rate is 72.1 percent.

Source: 1992-2006 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Exhibit 5, American Council of Education.

Iowa's GED Test Score Mean Compared to National Mean for Subtests and Overall Test Battery for GED Passers

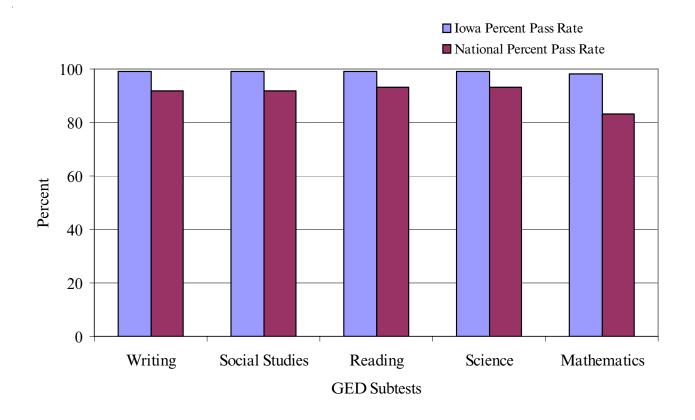


GED Subtest	lowa Standard Score Mean	National Standard Score Mean	Difference
Writing	512	496	16
Social Studies	547	532	15
Reading	577	555	22
Science	551	534	17
Mathematics	513	496	17
Battery	540	522	18

lowa's mean test scores range from 15-22 standard score points above the national mean test scores.

Source: 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Tables 15A and 15B, American Council of Education.

Iowa's Pass Rates Compared to National Pass Rates for GED Subtests for All GED Candidates

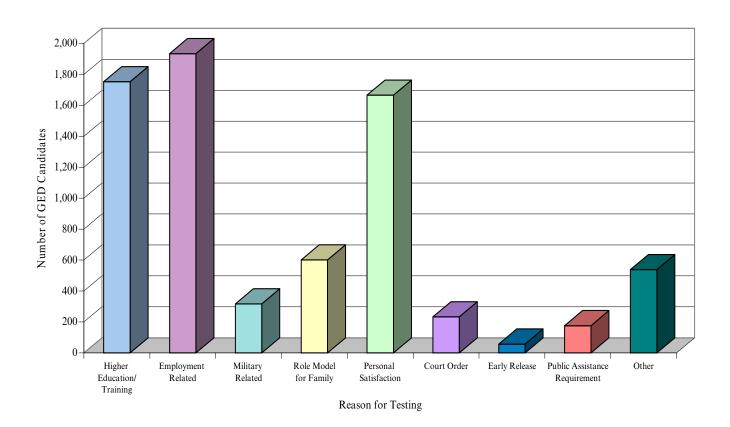


GED Subtest	Iowa Percent Pass Rate	National Percent Pass Rate	Difference
Writing	99%	92%	7
Social Studies	99	92	7
Reading	99	93	6
Science	99	93	6
Mathematics	98	83	15

lowa's subtest pass rate percentages range 6-15 percentage points above the national subtest pass rate percentage range. The largest pass rate discrepancy is observed in the mathematics subtest (15 percentage points difference).

Source: 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Tables 7A and 7B, American Council of Education.

Graph 12 Reasons for Testing



Reason	N	Percent
Higher Education/Training	1,753	25
Employment Related	1,934	27
Military Related	317	4
Role Model for Family	601	8
Personal Satisfaction	1,666	23
Court Order	233	3
Early Release	57	1
Public Assistance Requirement	176	2
Other	538	7
	*7,275	100

The three (3) major reasons for testing were: 1) Employment Related (27 percent), 2) Higher Education/ Training (25 percent), and 3) Personal Satisfaction (23 percent).

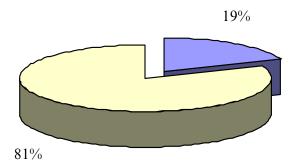
Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education.

^{*}Represents duplicated head count.

Total GED Test Volume Percentage Compared to Correctional Facilities GED Test Volume

Correctional Facilities

Other



Location	N	Percent
Correctional Facilities Other	1,103 4,666	19 81
	5,769	100

19 percent of the GED testing volume was conducted in correctional facilities.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education.